

## **Scripture Lesson for February 21, 2021 – Lent 1**

### **Introduction to the Hebrew Lesson:**

The lesson from the first book in the Bible, Genesis 9:8-17, is all about Covenant, God's Covenant with Noah and his sons. Covenants involve relationships, binding relationships between God and others. In our own relationships in the church are at least 4-way covenants: God, the local church, the Catoctin Association and the larger bodies of the UCC. Covenants are designed to renew, to reconcile and to set a promise (s) for the future. Listen to a reading from Genesis:

### **A Reading from Genesis 9:8-17**

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

### **Introduction: The Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-3**

In this Lenten season we are exploring the Beatitudes in Matthew chapter 5. Pairing a Beatitude with the regular scriptures of the Revised Common Lectionary, we will find the blessings in these scriptures and in our lives. Listen to the first three verses of Matthew 5:

## **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-3 Blessed are the Poor in Spirit**

### **The Beatitudes:**

**5** When Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: **3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.